

# House File 2029 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2029

BY HORBACH

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an employer advocacy council within the  
2 economic development authority.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1. NEW SECTION.   15.120   Employer advocacy council.

2     1. An employer advocacy council is established within  
3 the authority. The authority shall provide the council with  
4 staff assistance and administrative support using existing  
5 resources available to the authority. The authority may expend  
6 moneys allocated to the authority to provide such support.  
7 The authority may adopt rules for the implementation of this  
8 section.

9     2. The council shall consist of the following members:

10    a. Voting members as follows:

11      (1) The governor, or the governor's designee.

12      (2) The director of the authority, or the director's  
13 designee.

14      (3) The director of the department of workforce  
15 development, or the director's designee.

16      (4) Additional members with expertise relevant to  
17 employment and job growth selected by the governor.

18    b. Four members of the general assembly serving two-year  
19 terms in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity, with two from the  
20 senate and two from the house of representatives and not more  
21 than one member from each chamber being from the same political  
22 party. The two senators shall be designated one member each  
23 by the majority leader of the senate and the minority leader  
24 of the senate. The two representatives shall be designated  
25 one member each by the speaker of the house of representatives  
26 after consultation with the majority leader of the house of  
27 representatives, and by the minority leader of the house of  
28 representatives.

29    3. The council shall annually elect a chairperson and other  
30 officers as the members determine. A majority of the members  
31 of the council shall constitute a quorum. The council shall  
32 meet at least quarterly. Members of the advocacy council shall  
33 serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual  
34 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

35    4. The purposes of the council are the following:

1     *a.* To receive and document concerns from employers regarding  
2 regulatory compliance and any other issues which prevent  
3 employers from starting or expanding a business or hiring  
4 employees in this state.

5     *b.* To publicize concerns received from employers so that  
6 the private and public sectors can be more adequately informed  
7 about such issues in pursuit of job growth in this state.

8     *c.* To recommend solutions for employer concerns to the  
9 general assembly and other stakeholders in order to promote job  
10 growth in this state.

11     5. The duties of the council shall include the following:

12     *a.* The council shall establish a physical address and  
13 telephone number for the receipt of concerns from employers.  
14 The council shall provide for the receipt of concerns from  
15 employers at the council's physical address during normal  
16 business hours.

17     *b.* The council shall establish an internet site. The  
18 council's internet site shall serve as a forum for the receipt  
19 of concerns from employers in accordance with this section  
20 and for the discussion of such concerns. The council shall  
21 regularly publish concerns received by the council from  
22 employers on the council's internet site, including concerns  
23 received by mail and telephone and in person. The council's  
24 internet site may include other resources for employers as the  
25 council deems appropriate.

26     *c.* The council shall conduct regular public meetings across  
27 the state to receive and discuss concerns from employers in  
28 accordance with this section. The council shall publish notice  
29 of the date, time, and location of each meeting at least two  
30 weeks in advance. The council shall establish procedures for  
31 participation in such meetings by means of telecommunication  
32 or electronic communication. The council shall establish  
33 procedures for recording all comments received during such  
34 meetings.

35     *d.* The council shall by December 15 each year issue an

1 annual report to the general assembly detailing concerns  
2 expressed to the council by employers during the previous  
3 year and making recommendations based on such concerns for  
4 legislation and any other action the council deems necessary to  
5 promote job growth in this state. The annual report shall be  
6 published on the council's internet site.

7 e. The council may establish other procedures the council  
8 deems necessary to carry out the purposes of the council  
9 pursuant to section 4.

10

EXPLANATION

11 This bill establishes an employer advocacy council within  
12 the economic development authority. The authority is to  
13 provide the council with staff assistance and administrative  
14 support using existing resources and may expend moneys  
15 allocated to the authority to provide such support. The  
16 authority may adopt rules for the implementation of the bill.

17 The employer advocacy council's voting members shall consist  
18 of the governor, or the governor's designee; the director of  
19 the economic development authority, or the director's designee;  
20 the director of the department of workforce development, or  
21 the director's designee; and additional members with expertise  
22 relevant to employment and job growth selected by the governor.  
23 The council shall also include four ex officio, nonvoting  
24 legislative members who serve two-year terms, two from the  
25 senate and two from the house of representatives and not more  
26 than one member from each chamber being from the same political  
27 party. The council is to annually elect a chairperson and  
28 other officers as the members determine. A majority of the  
29 members of the council constitutes a quorum. The council is to  
30 meet at least quarterly. Members of the advocacy council serve  
31 without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses  
32 incurred in the performance of their duties.

33 The employer advocacy council has several purposes. The  
34 council is to receive and document concerns from employers  
35 regarding regulatory compliance and any other issues which

1 prevent employers from starting or expanding a business or  
2 hiring employees in Iowa; publicize concerns received from  
3 employers so that the private and public sectors can be more  
4 adequately informed about such issues in pursuit of job growth  
5 in Iowa; and recommend solutions for employer concerns to the  
6 general assembly and other stakeholders in order to promote job  
7 growth in Iowa.

8     The bill sets out certain duties of the employer advocacy  
9 council. The council is to establish a physical address and  
10 telephone number for the receipt of concerns from employers  
11 during normal business hours. The council is to establish an  
12 internet site which shall serve as a forum for the receipt  
13 of concerns from employers in accordance with the bill and  
14 the discussion of such concerns. The council is to regularly  
15 publish concerns received by the council from employers on  
16 the council's internet site, including concerns received by  
17 mail and in person. The council's internet site may include  
18 other resources for employers as the council deems appropriate.  
19 The council shall conduct regular public meetings across the  
20 state to receive and discuss concerns from employers and  
21 shall publicize the date, time, and location of each meeting  
22 at least two weeks in advance. The council is to establish  
23 procedures for participation in such meetings by means of  
24 telecommunication or electronic communication and for recording  
25 all comments received during such meetings.

26     By December 15 each year, the employer advocacy council is  
27 to issue an annual report to the general assembly detailing  
28 concerns expressed to the council by employers during the  
29 previous year and making recommendations based on such  
30 concerns for legislation and any other action the council deems  
31 necessary to promote job growth in Iowa. The annual report  
32 is also to be published on the council's internet site. The  
33 council may also establish other procedures the council deems  
34 necessary to carry out the purposes of the council pursuant to  
35 the bill.